



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT VII.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner\*

Date: March 11, 2009

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Design and Funding Approval Consideration*; Portland School Department, New K-5 Elementary School Construction Project.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The new K-5 elementary school will be constructed on the Baxter School site in Portland, Maine. The school is designed to house 440 students. The entire Nathan Clifford School population and an additional 170 students from other schools will attend at the new facility.

The Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

The basic design and project budget have remained very similar to the Concept design and budget which were approved on March 12, 2008. The architect will briefly comment on the minor changes that have occurred since Concept Approval.

The Portland School Department is requesting Design and Funding Approval for a new K-5 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- The Portland School Department proposed school construction project is eligible for school construction under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- The proposed project and authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the Portland School Department;
- The Portland School Department estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- The Portland School Department proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

### **Project Information**

Project: New K-5 Elementary School  
Superintendent: Jean Whynot-Vickers  
Principal: vacant  
Architect: WBRC Architects and Engineers  
School(s) to be closed: Nathan Clifford School. The Percival P. Baxter School will be demolished to make room for the new school.

### **Project Budget Information**

Concept Approval Date: March 12, 2008  
Total Project Cost: \$20,164,591  
Local Only (no State participation): \$60,000  
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$19,630,417  
Anticipated Funding from Grants: \$474,174

## **CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

At its meeting on March 4, 2009, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to the Portland School Department for new K-5 school construction project located in Portland, Maine.

## **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to Portland School Department for a new K-5 elementary school in Portland, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the design and funding budget as presented.\*\*

\*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team

\*\*This approval constitutes Design & Funding Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

*“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”*